

tremendous fire indiscriminately on everybody they saw. Dr. Landon and two of the A.H.C. were shot down whilst attending to the wounded, the former being mortally wounded.

I then went back to the Commander, and fixed my handkerchief on a stick, and held it up over him, but it was almost immediately shot away, and a hot volley fired all round us. Bevis then fixed a piece of lint on a bayonet, but was immediately twice shot through the helmet. I ordered him to lie down until the last of our men had passed us, and did the same myself. When the Boers had driven our men over the side of the hill, and had got within fifteen paces, I got up with a piece of lint in my hand, and shouted to them that I was a doctor, and had a wounded man with me. Two or three of the younger Boers wanted to shoot us, but were prevented by the elder men. The Boers then got all round us, and opened fire on our men retreating down the side of the hill.

While they were thus engaged, Bevis and myself picked up the stretcher, and carried Commander Romilly back to where the hospital was.

When about half-way across we were surrounded by Boers, who were with great difficulty prevented from shooting the Commander as he lay, they being under the idea that he was either Sir Garnet Wolseley or Sir Evelyn Wood. Having assured them to the contrary I asked to see their Commander, who was pointed out to me (I think it was Ferriora). I asked him protection for the wounded, which was immediately granted. In fact, after the heat of the action, the Boers, especially the elder ones, were most kind in their attention to the wounded, getting them water, and some helping to bind up their wounds. I saw no Boers killed or wounded.

It was now about 2.30 P.M., and Bevis and myself with the two A.H.C. men who were unwounded, set to work to dress the wounded.

All who could walk were allowed by the Boers to make the best of their way to camp, and many did so, but I am unable to estimate the number. The prisoners who were taken by the Boers were made to assist in carrying the wounded from various parts of the hill to the hospital. But they were taken away to the Boer laager at about 6 P.M.

I had sent the Commander with four blue jackets (prisoners) on a stretcher to the spot where we had first ascended the hill. They managed to get him down safely some part of the way, but then three of them were ordered back by the Boers. However, they allowed one man to stay with him, and there they remained all night under a bush. The Commander was found by Dr. Ring, A.M.D. in the morning, not much the worse, and was sent into camp, where he arrived safely.

(I did not know of this till afterwards.)

At about 6 P.M. a thick mist began to come over the hill, accompanied by a drizzling rain.

Bevis and myself searched as much of the hill as we could for wounded, and found two or three, but were eventually compelled to desist on account of the thickness of the mist. I had all the wounded, 36 in number, placed on one spot near the well, and luckily we found blankets and just enough waterproof sheets to cover them all. All we had to give them was water and a little opium, the Boers having taken all our brandy.

It now commenced to rain heavily, and continued to do so without intermission during the whole night, which much aggravated the sufferings of the wounded. It also became bitterly cold towards morning. The darkness also was so intense that it was almost impossible to attempt

to alleviate the sufferings of the wounded without stumbling over them. We had neither lantern nor matches.

Daylight returned at about 5 A.M., and with it also the Boers. I found that four men had succumbed to the inclemency of the weather during the night.

At about 6 A.M. Drs. Babbington and Ring, with medical comforts, stretchers, and stretcher-bearers, under Lieutenant Cochran, arrived.

The dead were collected and placed in a row ready for interment, and the wounded, as many as possible, were placed on the stretchers, and sent down the mountain under my charge. We dressed a few wounded on the side of the hill, who had been lying there all night, but were not able to bring them on with us.

We reached O'Neill's farm, which is turned into a temporary hospital, at about 3 P.M.

I then brought on five ambulances full of wounded into camp, where I arrived at about 5 P.M., 28th February.

[For list of the killed and wounded belonging to the Naval Brigade, see Commodore Richards' Return at end of papers.]

I wish to speak most highly of the conduct of William Bevis, sick-berth attendant, for his coolness and courage during the action, and the invaluable assistance he rendered me afterwards during the night, and up to the present time.

I regret to state that Commander Romilly died from mortification of the intestines at 2 P.M. on March 2nd. William Plastine, L.S., is severely wounded in the abdomen, and I have little hope of his recovery. The rest of the wounded are progressing favourably. Five of the slightly wounded have been sent down to the military hospital at Newcastle, viz.:—W. Kemp, G. Bridge, G. Sponder, D. Bone, F. Cross.

I am, &c.,

EDWARD E. MAHON,

Surgeon R.N.

To Commodore Richards, R.N.

Sub-Enclosure No. 1 with Cape and West Coast Station Letter No. 71, of 14th March, 1881.

"Boadicea," off Natal,
March 14, 1881.

RETURN of officers and men of the Naval Brigade killed and wounded at Majuba Mountain on the 27th February, 1881.

Killed.

H.M.S. "Boadicea."

Lieutenant Cornwallis J. Trower, gunshot wound of right chest and lung.

Quartermaster Saml. Witheridge, gunshot wound of head.

Quartermaster Geo. Hammond, gunshot wound of chest.

Cornis. O'Connor, A.B., gunshot wound of head.

Walter Barnard, A.B., gunshot wound of head.

John McClure, A.B., gunshot wound of head.

Wm. Passingham, A.B., gunshot wound of chest.

Henry Brazier, Ordinary, gunshot wound (?).

Henry G. Beddell, Ordinary, gunshot wound of head.

Wm. Chapman, Ordinary, gunshot wound of forehead.

George Burton, Ordinary, gunshot wound (?).

H.M.S. "Dido."

James Gunstone, A.B., gunshot wound of head.

J. Bugey, Ordinary, gunshot wound of head.

Arthur Newman, Ordinary, gunshot wound of chest.